

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 01885 020615Z
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MPOL, NATO, PO
SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION; FRG STATEMENT

THERE FOLLOWS BELOW THE COMPLETE TEXT OF FRG REP'S STATEMENT
ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL, MADE DURING MARCH
31 MEETING OF AD HOC GROUP ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO
PORTUGAL AND TURKEY. FRG ASKED THAT INFORMATION IN IT
BE CLOSELY HELD. BEGIN TEXT:
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO GRANT
DEFENCE AID TO PORTUGAL.

IT WILL THEREFORE TRY TO HELP IN THE CREATION OF THE
PORTUGUESE NATO BRIGADE AND TO CONTRIBUTE 17 M-48 BATTLE
TANKS AND 18 105-MM FIELD HOWITZERS AS WELL AS OTHER
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PAGE 02 NATO 01885 020615Z

EQUIPMENT AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE NECESSARY TRAINING.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL ENDEAVOUR TO PROVIDE FOR

BUDGETARY COVER AND TO OBTAIN THE APPROVAL OF THE RESPONSIBLE
PARLIAMENTARY BODIES.

1. THE VALUE OF OUR DEFENCE AID FOR THE CREATION OF THE NATO
BRIGADE WILL AMOUNT TO A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 25 MILLION DM.
IT WILL INCLUDE:

A) THE PRESENT VALUE OF THE BATTLE TANKS AND GUNS;
B) THE PRESENT VALUE OF SURPLUS MATERIAL WHICH CAN BE MADE
AVAILABLE TO PORTUGAL (166 UNIMOG 1.5-T TRUCKS, 234 FAUN
10-T TRUCKS, 11 DB FAUN 5-T TRUCKS, 19 UNIMOG 1.5-T
AMBULANCE TRUCKS, 203 1.5-T TRAILERS, 4 50-T TRANK TRANSPORTERS,
25 5-T BOX-TYPE TRUCKS (EMPTY), 13 7-T MAN DUMP
TRUCKS, 1 6X6 20-T CRANE TRUCK, 25 5-T DB TRUCKS, 18
TRIPOD MACHINE GUNS).
C) THE COST OF THE POSSIBLY NECESSARY CONVERSION OF THE M48
A2 BATTLE TANKS TO THE 105-MM GUN, US RADIO CABLING AND
DIESELENGINES;
D) THE TRANSPORT OF THE MATERIAL TO PORTUGAL;
E) THE PERSONNEL COST OF THE TRAINING ON BATTLE TANKS AND
GUNS FOR SIX MONTHS EACH:
-TANKS: 1 LIEUTENANT-COLONEL, 2 CAPTAINS (INCLUDING 1
TECHNICAL OFFICER),
10 SERGEANTS/STAFF SERGEANTS (INCLUDING 2 MILITARY
DRIVING INSTRUCTORS),
- ARTILLERY: 1 LEUTENANT-COLONEL, 2 CAPTAINS, 3 1ST/2ND
LIEUTENANTS, 9 SERGEANTS/STAFF SERGEANTS.
THE PROVISION OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF MILITARY
EQUIPMENT BY PORTUGAL IS NOT PLANNED.

2. TIME SCHEDULE

A) THE DELIVERY OF THE GUNS CAN START RELATIVELY SOON AFTER
BUNDESTAG APPROVAL OF THE DECISION OF THE FEDERAL SECURITY
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PAGE 03 NATO 01885 020615Z

COUNCIL. THE GUNS WILL BE ACCCOMPANIED BY THE APPROPRIATE
TRAINING.
B) THE CONVERSION OF THE TANKS HAS NOT YET BEEN FINALLY DECIDED
BU TIT IS EXPECTED THAT IT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN. IT CANNOT
YET BE SAID WHEN THE DELIVERY OF THE TANKS TO PORTUGAL CAN
START; THE RESPECTIVE FIRMS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO SUBMIT
BIDS AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.
C) PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATIVES ARE TO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY
TO INSPECT AND EVALUATE THE MATERIAL MENTIONED IN PARA. 1.B)
IN THE DEPOTS. THE DELIVERY OF SPARE PARTS IS POSSIBLE.
HOWEVER, REPAIRS WHICH MAY PROVE NECESSARY CANNOT BE CARRIED
OUT. THE TRANSPORT OF THE VEHICLES TO PORTUGAL WILL PROBABLY
BE FINANCED FROM GERMAN FUNDS. THE DATE AT WHICH DELIVERY
CAN BEGIN DEPENDS ON THE PROVISION OF FUNDS FOR TRANSPORT
AND THE OTHER COSTS INVOLVED.

3. BY TAKING THIS DECISION, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSED
ITS FIRM POLITICAL WILL TO MAKE AVAILABLE MILITARY AID TO
PORTUGAL TO THE EXTENT DESCRIBED. HOWEVER, THE DECISION
STILL REQUIRES APPROVAL BY THE RESPONSIBLE LEGISLATIVE
BODIES.
END TEXT.STRAUSZ-HUPE'

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